

2.5. Arses (338/7–336/5 B.C.), for whom a throne-name is not known so far, is said to have changed his name also into Artaxerxes by Badian 1977. The only fact, on which this scholar bases his assumption, is that for the first year of some Artaxerxes the new Xanthus trilingual inscription⁶ shows Pixodarus as satrap of (Caria and) Lycia⁷. Though only little is known of the detailed history of the Hecatomnids ruling over Lycia at that time, Badian, when interpreting this fact, is of the opinion, that the first year of Artaxerxes mentioned there must be later than the first year of Artaxerxes III, i.e. 359/8 B.C., and so relates that date to Arses, who otherwise would be the only late Achaemenid king, who failed to adopt a throne-name. Like Dupont-Sommer⁸, the present author, however, does not yet see a definite proof for that interpretation, so much the more since any argumentation with the passage of Diodorus Siculus cited in § 2.4 is made impossible by the mere existence of his successor's name Darius III⁹.

2.6. Darius III (336/5–330 B.C.) has been renamed, too, when ascending the throne unexpectedly: That is evident from Curtius Rufus (IV,1, 10), who makes a fictitious letter of Alexander the Great to Darius begin with these words: *Rex Alexander Dareo s. Cuius nomen sumpsisti, Dareus Graecos, qui oram Hellespontii tenent, coloniasque Graecorum Ionias omni clade vastavit ...* "King Alexander to Darius: The (former) Darius, whose name you have taken, has thoroughly destroyed the Greeks at the coast of the Hellespont and the Ionian colonies of the Greeks ...". A hint at the original name of this last Achaemenid king seems to be given by Iustinus, where we read, that a certain *Codomannus* (X,3,3–4), having deserved well of his king and his country in the Cadusian War and therefore having been created chief of the Armenians, (*ibid.* 5:) *interiecto deinde tempore post mortem Ochi regis ob memoriam pristinae virtutis rex a populo constituitur, Darii nomine, ne quid regiae maiestati deesset, honoratus* "some time after the death of king Ochus¹⁰ is appointed king by the people in remembrance of his previous bravery, honoured with the surname of Darius, in order that he is not short of royal majesty".

2.7. This survey may be supplemented by taking into consideration also Bessus, Darius' former satrap in Bactria and his murderer, who nomi-

⁶ The final edition of the trilingual stele is in Fouilles 1979.

⁷ Pixodarus is called satrap of both these provinces only in the Aramaic version of the text.

⁸ André Dupont-Sommer in Fouilles 1979, pp. 165–169, esp. p. 166 n. 1.

⁹ For this counter-evidence see Badian 1977, p. 47 n. 14.

¹⁰ Between Ochus and Darius III is the two years lasting reign of Arses, who is not known to Iustinus.

nated himself successor of the dead king and took the royal name of Artaxerxes (IV): Some Persians informed Alexander, as is said by Arrianus, *Anabasis*, III,25,3, Βήσσον τὴν τε τιάραν ὀρθὴν ἔχειν καὶ τὴν Περσικὴν στολὴν φοροῦντα Ἀρταξέρῳ τε καλεῖσθαι ἀντὶ Βήσσου καὶ βασιλέα φάσκειν εἶναι τῆς Ἀσίας" that Bessus was wearing the tiara upright (*scil.*: in a king's fashion) and having on the Persian (*scil.*: royal) robe, called himself Artaxerxes instead of Bessus, and proclaimed that he was king of Asia". Likewise we hear from Curtius Rufus (VI,6,13): *namque Bessus veste regia sumpta Artaxerxen appellari se iusserat* "because Bessus had put on the royal dress and ordered to call himself Artaxerxes".

3. All that Graeco-Roman evidence is now supplemented by Late Babylonian data, which partly corroborate, partly modify it and obtain the character of an independent and autonomous source, since there is not the least interrelation or interdependence between those Graeco-Roman and these Late Babylonian traditions. That material, which for the most part has been preserved in astronomical texts and rendered accessible by Sachs 1977, will be grouped likewise in chronological order:

3.1. The unpublished astronomical diary BM 33478 (= LBAT 162)¹¹ contains a date of the year 24 of [Ar]-šū šā ar-tak-šat-su LUGAL MU-šū SA₄-ū "[Ar]šū called Artakšatsu the king"¹² (cfr. Sachs 1977, pp. 130/131), which is brought into relation with the year 441/0 B.C. (or "–440/439" according to the notation used by astronomers) and consequently with Artaxerxes I by Sachs (*loc. cit.*). That does not harmonize, however, with Flavius Iosephus' statement cited in § 2.1. But since on the other hand that phrase would correspond fairly well with a number of analogous testimonies for Artaxerxes II and his original name Arses, one is tempted to ask on what data in that unpublished text the interpretation of Sachs is based and whether a relation with Artaxerxes II and the year 381/0 B.C. can be excluded with certainty or not.

3.2. In the lunar table LBAT 1426 containing reports of consecutive lunar eclipses (arranged in 18-year groups) for the years 442/1 to 422/1 B.C. there is given in line 4' a date within the accession year of "ū-ma-kuš (not "ū-ma-sū) šā da-ra-mu-šū MU-šū [SA₄-ū] "Umakuš [called] Daramušū", which seems to be ensured by the context as belonging to the year 424/3 B.C. (cfr. Sachs 1977, pp. 130/131, where the name given here as "ū-

¹¹ The numbers given refer to the British Museum (BM) collection-numbers and the publication by Pinches 1955 (LBAT) respectively.

¹² The literal translation would be: "Aršū, who Artakšatsu the king – his name – is called".